



For Immediate Release **Boston Connects, Inc.**

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BOSTON CONNECTS, INC. ANNOUNCES NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NETWORKING TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EMPOWERMENT ZONE RESIDENTS.

The Board of Directors of Boston Connects, Inc. (BCI), the community-based organization working to create economic self-sufficiency for individuals, families and communities in Boston's Empowerment Zone, voted Tuesday night to fund a new Information Technology Networking Training program that will prepare Zone residents for A+, Network+, Cisco and MCSA certification. A total of \$317,667 in Empowerment Zone funds supports this endeavor

The Boston Connects Strategic Plan addresses the need to offer Zone residents a myriad of skills training opportunities including technology training. The goal of the Information Technology Program is to prepare Zone residents (with and without IT training) for A+ (PC maintenance and repair), Network+ Microsoft Certified System Administrator (MCSA) or Cisco certification, through classroom training, internship and follow up services including job placement. Microsoft and Cisco certifications are the first rungs in this career ladder. This program will develop these highly marketable skills among Empowerment Zone residents.

Approximately 40 Zone residents will benefit from this program. Codman Square Health Center and Madison Park Community Development Corporation will administer the programs.

"This new program offers opportunities to Zone residents who want to get into the IT sector, but simply cannot afford the cost to get trained and certified. The agencies administering the programs have strong track records and that translates into job prospects with good career-advancement opportunity for people. That is this program's bottom line." said Christine Araujo, Executive Director of Boston Connects.

Boston Connects, Inc. was established in November 1999 to implement the City's strategic plan to generate economic self-sufficiency for Empowerment Zone residents through job creation and human development programming.



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
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